

February 28, 2013

RE: Governors Proposed Budget

The Town of Brooklyn seeks legislative help from the Governors proposed budget.

The Governors proposed state budget will result in a significant hike in property taxes, cuts in municipal services and/or layoffs in our Town.

Brooklyn will be faced with serious decisions with the reductions of states funds and transfers of funds which restrict funds used previously in the general fund.

The elimination of payment in lieu of taxes (pilot) is another example of the state failing to uphold their obligation to towns to reimburse municipalities for state mandated property tax exemptions. With a prison in town, this is a serious hit for Brooklyn. Transforming the pilot to ECS restricts the use of the funds and takes it from the general fund to the board of education. (Is the real reason because it puts it in a grant and takes it out of the state budget?)

Mashantucket Pequot grant is another general fund revenue for municipalities that is being slashed and put into LOCIP. Again, this takes needed revenue from town functions and puts it in a restricted account where the state is mandating municipalities on what the funds can be used for. (Is the real reason because the state can put \$56 million from this grant in their general fund and then bond \$56 million for LOCIP to make the state budget work?)

Brooklyn loses \$147,385 of pilot funds to ECS and \$214,331 from Mashantucket Pequot to LOCIP fund. This is \$361,716 from the general fund now still available but with the state delegating what it is used for.

In addition, the elimination of the car tax would result in a revenue loss to Brooklyn of \$1,133,224 or 5.38% of our revenue or 9.64% of our taxable revenue. No town can absorb an impact like this without huge property tax increases. Small towns like ours do not have good options in cutting departments because most are at subsistent levels unless we can eliminate them, but state statutes requires services. The car tax alone is over a two million increase in addition to the previous cuts I have raised.

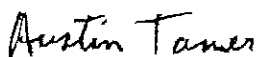
I am deeply disappointed in the Governor for resorting ~~to gimmicks~~ to gimmicks and bonding in an attempt to present a reasonable budget. I had been supportive of Mr. Malloy for his aggressive

leadership and I thought genuine desire to get the state on solid financial footing, but he has resorted to unscrupulous tactics to artificially make a budget appear workable. The burden he is transferring to property tax payers and future generations should not be tolerated by citizens of our state.

I do respect his attempt to hold towns harmless by his hold harmless grant but it doesn't overcome the cuts and restrictions he is attempting to implement.

I, as First Selectman of Brooklyn, am asking you as a member of our legislative to work together to develop a state budget that protects municipalities, residents and property tax payers for a better and more responsible state.

Sincerely,



Austin Tanner
First Selectman